

OSA-0700-63
8 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Col Jack C. Ledford
THROUGH : Mr. John McMahon
SUBJECT : "B" Camera Requirements (IDEALIST)

May

1. Six "B" cameras are in operational use on the "I" Program. This quantity is insufficient to support the current level of activity and permit necessary maintenance and over-haul procedures nor does it provide for a cushion to cover foreseeable increased activity or replacement spares for attrition.
2. The minimum number of additional cameras required to provide this capability is six. It is felt that the time period during which these requirements will become critical is three to seven months.
3. Several alternative courses of action have been examined in an effort to establish the most reasonable solution, however, the problems involved in obtaining long lead time items such as lenses, mirrors and Q bay windows, plus the time required to train field crews, processing teams and photographic interpreters in the handling of a new and unfamiliar system suggests that the following course of action has the best chance for success within the time limits.
 - a. Contract with Hycon to produce immediately three "B" cameras using borrowed inventory parts. These cameras would incorporate a new tension sensor and new oblique drive. This approach would employ a 36" f/10 lens presently on order from Diffraction Ltd and three of which are due for delivery during the first week of May, and four more by 22 May. These were ordered for West German F-104 Program but can be diverted. These cameras can be delivered within 90 days if Hycon is given authorization to use [] of their present HR-333 contract to immediately order replacements for the diverted lenses and other long lead time components. These cameras will be essentially identical to the present "B" cameras plus the incorporation of minor improvements to increase reliability.
 - b. Order three more "B" cameras for delivery in October and November 1963 incorporating major improvements that will increase the ground resolution by 20 to 30 per cent.

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Improvements to be studied include but are not limited to: a 36" lens of larger aperture to cover an 18" X 18" format, a stable platform to limit image movement due to aircraft instability, a high speed focal plane shutter already developed for another project.

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4. Myeon estimates that the three cameras in paragraph 3a above, can be delivered for [] each and the three cameras in paragraph 3b above, would cost in the neighborhood of [] each plus [] for a stabilized platform development if it is found feasible and necessary. Total price ROM for these six cameras would then be [].

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5. This approach will provide the project with sufficient cameras to support our immediate needs and afford an improved capability by November 1963.

6. It is urgently recommended that immediate action be taken to implement this procurement.

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[]
Development Division
OSA-DD/R

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